

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: P.G. #70-10 Building Date: Early 19th c., 1901

Building Name: Crandell-Cook House

Location: 9310 Crandall Road, Lanham, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

Description:

The Crandell-Cook house is a three-part frame gable-roofed building, located at the east end of Crandall Road on high ground above the Bald Hill Branch. The largest section is the easternmost, a three bay by two bay, three-story structure. Entrance is in the central bay of the three-bay south facade, through a door with three-pane sidelights, single pane transom, and dentilled frieze. There is an interior chimney at the ridge at each end of the gable roof. The roof is steeply pitched and pierced on each plane by two tall dormer windows. There is a two story porch across the east gable end which wraps around the north facade; it rests on brick piers, and has plain posts and balusters. The siding of this main section is plain weatherboard painted red. The windows throughout are 2/2, with plain board surrounds and white louvered shutters. There are two smaller buildings attached to the main building and extending to the west. A two-story frame cross-gable building is attached to the main block at its northeast corner. Its roof extends to the west where it joins the westernmost section, another two-story gable-roofed building. Both the central and west sections rest on heavy stone foundations; the floor structure of the central section consists of heavy hewn joists joined with the hewn sill in mortise and tenon joints. Both of these smaller sections are covered with German siding painted red. The roof of the entire structure is green asphalt shingle. A short distance north of the house is a gable-roofed board-and-batten bank barn.

Significance:

The Crandell-Cook House is a complex of buildings, beginning as a simple early nineteenth century farmhouse, expanded in two stages over the next century into a three-part 23-room structure. The 120-acre Bald Hill farm, including a dwelling with an old stone foundation, was purchased in 1883 by George Crandell. In 1901 Crandell sold the farm to O.F. Cook, a botanist conducting plant research for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the next year, Cook undertook construction of the large three-story structure which he built onto the southeast corner of the old dwelling. Within the next few years three more families of research scientists built homes in the immediate vicinity. The Cook residence thus became the nucleus of a unique suburban scientific community; Cook, Collins, Kempton, and Scofield became pre-eminent in their fields, particularly in plant introduction. The house is now an imposing and unusual complex of buildings, in a unique setting which is a rural oasis amidst fast-developing commercial/ industrial areas.

Acreage: 5.92 acres

Magi No.

DOE \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic (Bald Hill Farm)

and/or common Crandell-Cook house

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 9310 Crandall Road \_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Lanham \_\_\_ vicinity of congressional district 5

state Maryland county Prince George's

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
___ site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military	___ other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Lee Dorsey

street &amp; number 9310 Crandall Road telephone no.: 731-4365

city, town Lanham, state and zip code MD. 20706

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. P.G. County Courthouse liber 4338

street &amp; number Main Street folio 307

city, town Upper Marlboro, state MD.

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title P.G. County Inventory of Historic Sites

date 1974 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state ☒ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records History Division, M-NCPPC

city, town Riverdale, state MD. 20737

## 7. Description

Survey No. P.G. 70-10

**Condition**

☒ excellent  
☐ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check one**

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Crandell-Cook house is located at the east end of Crandall Road on high ground as it drops down to the east towards the Bald Hill Branch. It is composed of three frame gable-roofed buildings joined together. The largest section (A) is the easternmost, a three-bay by two bay, three story structure, ca. 36 by 24 feet. The principal facade is the three-bay south facade. Entrance is in the center bay, through a door with three-pane sidelights and single pane transom. Above the door is a dentilled frieze. On each side of the central door is a double 2/2 double hung sash window. There is an interior chimney at the ridge at each end of the gable roof. The roof is steeply pitched and pierced on each plane by two tall dormer windows. There is a two story porch across the east gable end which wraps around the north facade; it rests on brick piers, and has plain posts and balusters. The siding of this main section is plain weatherboard painted red. The windows throughout are 2/2, with plain board surrounds and white louvered shutters. The interior plan is central stairhall flanked by parlors.

There are two smaller buildings attached to the main building and extending to the west. A two-story frame cross-gable building is attached to the main building at its northwest corner. (Communication between the two structures is through the enclosed west end of the above-cited porch). This cross-gable section, (B) ca. 31' by 16', has a one-bay gable end on the south, and two-bay on the north; windows are 6/6 double hung sash. Its cross-gable roof extends to the west where it joins the westernmost section (C), another two-story gable-roofed building (ca. 26' by 14') offset slightly to the north from the line of the central section, and with its roof ridge running north and south. Double 2/2 windows with plain board surrounds fill the one-bay south gable end.

Both the central section (B) and west section (C) rest on heavy stone foundations, of local iron-bearing sandstone. From a dug-out basement under the central section it is possible to observe the floor structure of the central section. Heavy hewn joists are joined with the hewn sill in mortise and tenon joints. Both of these smaller sections are covered with German siding painted red. The roof of the entire structure is green asphalt shingle.

A short distance north of the house is a gable-roofed board-and-batten bank barn which rests on a coursed stone foundation of local iron-bearing sandstone. One enters the upper level through a sliding double door on the south; there is a central opening into the lower level on the north. Posts and joists appear to be machine sawn.

## 8. Significance

Survey No. P.G. #70-10

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history

Specific dates early 19th c., 1901 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Crandell-Cook House is a unique complex of buildings, beginning as a simple early nineteenth century farmhouse, expanded in two stages over the next century into a three-part 23-room structure. The ca. 250 acre Bald Hill Farm on which it stands belonged from the mid-nineteenth century to Camilla Cross.<sup>1</sup> About 120 acres of the farm, including a dwelling with an old stone foundation was purchased in 1883 by George Crandell, a government clerk from Pennsylvania who lived in the old house with his family until the beginning of the twentieth century. He is reported to have disassembled and transported from Pennsylvania the barn which now stands on heavy stone foundations a short distance north of the house.<sup>2</sup> In 1901 Crandell sold his 120-acre farm to O.F. Cook, a botanist who had, under the McKinley administration, begun plant research for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In the next year, Cook undertook construction of the large three-story structure which he built onto the southeast corner of the old dwelling. Within the next few years three more families of research scientists followed Cook's example and built homes in the immediate vicinity, using the newly built (1906) Washington, Baltimore and Annapolis (electric) Railroad to commute into Washington to the U.S.D.A. laboratories. (Cherry Grove station was just over the hill from Cook's house.) The Cook residence thus became the nucleus of a unique suburban scientific community. The families kept livestock and did some limited experimental plantings on the land. The four scientists, Cook, Collins, Kempton, and Scofield became pre-eminent in their fields, particularly in plant introduction.<sup>3</sup>

In later years the Cooks constructed another addition on the west end of the house, placing it on a new stone foundation similar to that of the oldest section of the house. The house is now an imposing and unusual complex of buildings, in a unique setting which is a rural oasis amidst fast-developing commercial/industrial areas.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. P.G. #70-10

cf. Chain of Title  
cf. Notes Item #8

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5.92 ac., TM 52 p.224Quadrangle name Lanham, Section D

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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G 

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan G. Pearl/Shirley Baltzorganization Historic Preservation Commissiondate May 1985

c/o County Planning Division

street & number M-NCPPC, County Admin. Building,telephone 952-3520city or town Upper Marlboro,state MD. 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

## #7. Continued

The setting of this complex of buildings is enhanced by a duck pond to the west, and fenced horse pastures to the north and east. Although its location is very close to major highways and industrial facilities, it is buffered by wooded lands, and has a distinctly rural setting.

## 8. Continued

## Notes

- 1 P.G. County Will WAJ#1:202; Equity #1143.
- 2 P.G. County Deed JWB #3:28; P.G. County Census 1900; interview with former resident. P.G. County Tax Assessments, 1880's, 1890's.
- 3 P.G. County Deed #3:133; interview with Cook and Kempton family members; Who's Who; 1895-1940.

1.  $G = C - P$

# NOMINATION FORM

for the

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES, NATIONAL PARKS SERVICE

SEE INST'CTIONS

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian
- ☐ 15th Century

- ☐ 16th Century
- ☐ 17th Century

- ☐ 18th Century
- ☒ 19th Century

- ☒ 20th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Aboriginal
  - ☐ Prehistoric
  - ☐ Historic
- ☐ Agriculture
- ☐ Architecture
- ☐ Art
- ☐ Commerce
- ☐ Communications
- ☐ Conservation

- ☐ Education
- ☐ Engineering
- ☐ Industry
- ☐ Invention
- ☐ Landscape Architecture
- ☐ Literature
- ☐ Military
- ☐ Music

- ☐ Political
- ☐ Religion/Philosophy
- ☐ Science
- ☐ Sculpture
- ☐ Social/Humanitarian
- ☐ Theater
- ☐ Transportation

- ☐ Urban Planning
- ☐ Other (Specify)

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house was built by the Crandells about eighty years ago, with an addition dating from about twenty-five years ago. Originally, the oldest part was supposedly a store.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA						
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

Acreage Justification:

11. FORM PREPARED BY	
NAME AND TITLE:	
ORGANIZATION	DATE
STREET AND NUMBER:	
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE

12. State Liaison Officer Review: (Office Use Only)
Significance of this property is: National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/>
Signature _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## Chain of Title

### Crandell-Cook House P.G. #70-10

#4338:307 25 Feb 1974 Deed	Frederick P. and Elizabeth Cook Upton to Leo J. Dorsey; 4 acres in 20th E.D.; part of land grantors acquired by #217:127.
#217:127 7 Apr 1924 Deed	Orator F. and Alice C. Cook to Frederick P. and Elizabeth Cook Upton; part of the estate of the heirs of Mrs. Camilla Cross; same which grantors acquired by #3:133.
#3:133 23 May 1901 Deed	George W. and Della Crandell to Orator F. Cook of Washington City; 126.63 acres called Bald Hill Farm; same which grantors acquired by JWB#3:29.
JWB#3:29 29 Nov 1883 Deed	William W. and Flora A. Stancliff to George W. Crandell; 121.63 acres in Kent E.D.; one-half the land grantors acquired by JWB#3:28.
JWB#3:28 15 Nov 1883 Deed	William and Jane C. Pettibone to William W. Stancliff; 244.63 acres in Kent E.D., near Lanham's Station on the Baltimore and Potomac RR; same which grantors acquired by WAJ#3:553.
WAJ#3:553 27 Feb 1882 Deed	Benjamin D. Stephens, trustee (replacing N. Carroll Stephens, deceased, who was appointed trustee in Equity #1143) to John Pettibone; 244.63 acres in Kent E.D. near the road leading from Buena Vista to Bladensburg.
Equity #1143 16 Oct 1877	Camilla Cross of DC, Mary Cross, Jessie and Sally (Cross) Chick vs. Harriett Cross. Petition to court to sell 346 acres called Bald Hill which were devised by Fielder Cross (who died 1 May 1855) to Camilla Cross, widow of Dennis B. Cross, and then to her daughters (Nicholas C. Stephens appointed trustee to make sale).
WAJ#1:202 17 Dec 1861 Will	Fielder Cross devised 340 acres called Bald Hill or Williams' Range to Camilla Cross, widow of his son Dennis B. Cross, for her natural life and "now occupied by her," with remainder to her 3 daughters, Harriet, Mary and Sally, as tenants in common.

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LTO J. DORSEY

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13.59 A.

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GERALD J. DESMOND

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29.21 A.

P.184

DELBERT

C. NEWMA

4156/092

4.21 A.

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M 52-P.241

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LEO J. DORSEY

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MAP 44-

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MAP 44-P.159

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J. EARLY

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EDGAR HOPKINS

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PG: 70-10

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P.G.#70-10

Crandell-Cook House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

March 1985

East elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G.#70-10

Crandell-Cook House

Prince George's County

Susan G. Pearl

March 1985

North Elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G.#70-10

Crandell-Cook House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

March 1985

North elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G.#70-10

Crandell-Cook House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

March 1985

South entrance

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G.#70-10

Crandell-Cook House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

March 1985

South elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD



P.G.#70-10

Crandell-Cook House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

March 1985

Barn, interior

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G.#70-10

Crandell-Cook House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

March 1985

Barn, east elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



P.G.#70-10

Crandell-Cook House

Prince George's County, MD

Susan G. Pearl

March 1985

Southwest 3/4 elevation

Neg: Md. Hist. Trust, Annapolis, MD.



NAME CRANDALL HOUSE #70-10

LOCATION END OF CRANDALL Rd LANHAM, Md

FACADE SE

PHOTO TAKEN 11/15/73 MOWYER